

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

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R 230001Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081955

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ILO, AORG, PFOR, ELAB, FI, NO

SUBJECT: ILO - FINNISH WORKER CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNING

BODY

REF: HELSINKI 0644

1. REFTEL REPORTS THAT KARI TAPIOLA MAY SEEK SCANDIVAVIAN SEAT IN WORKERS GROUP OF ILO GOVERNING BODY AT NEXT SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE WHICH WILL CONVENE AT GENEVA, IN JUNE 1974. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S TRANSMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION.

2. ELECTIONS TO WORKERS GROUP OF GOVERNING BODY ARE MADE BY THE WORKERS DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, AND GOVERNMENT'S HAVE NO DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY. USG  
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DOES NOT EVEN TRY TO INFLUENCE WORKER DELEGATES WHO ARE

GENERALLY VERY SENSITIVE TO ANY SUCH ATTEMPTS.

3. PRESENT GOVERNING BODY WAS ELECTED IN JUNE 1972 FOR THREE YEARS, AND ELECTION FOR THE NEXT GOVERNING BODY WOULD NOT NORMALLY TAKE PLACE UNTIL JUNE 1975. HOWEVER, PRESENT SCANDINAVIAN WORKER REPRESENTATIVE IN GOVERNING BODY, OLAF SUNDE OF NORWAY, MAY VACATE HIS SEAT DURING 1974. WE HAD HEARD THAT SCANDINAVIANS HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO NOMINATE THORBJORN CARLSSON, HEAD OF THE SWEDISH LO TO SUCCEED SUNDE. (NB ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOT LEGALLY A SCANDINAVIAN

SEAT, THERE HAS LONG BEEN A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF THE WORKERS THAT ONE OF THE 12 WORKERS SEATS IN THE GOVERNING BODY SHOULD BE HELD BY A SCANDINAVIAN REP AT ALL TIMES.)

4. QUESTION OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN ILO (PARA 2 REFTEL) HAS A LONG HISTORY. MOST OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED OVER THE YEARS ARE CONTRARY TO UNITED STATES INTERESTS. SOME OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD DEPRIVE THE GOVERNING BODY OF ELEMENTS OF ITS PRESENT AUTHORITY BY TRANSFERRING THE ELEMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, WHERE US INFLUENCE LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN IT IS IN THE GOVERNING BODY. OTHER STRUCTURAL CHANGES WOULD REDUCE AUTONOMY OF WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATION IN THE VARIOUS BODIES OF THE ILO. THE UNITED STATES HAS GENERALLY OPPOSED STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ILO, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO END CONTINUATION OF REPETITIOUS FORMAL, FULL-SCALE CONSIDERATION OF LONG-STANDING PROPOSED CHANGES ASAP.

5. WE WOULD LIKE ANY INFORMATION THAT POSTS MAY HAVE ON INTENTIONS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO PUSH FOR ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES AT FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE.

5. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE ANY INFORMATION THAT POSTS MAY HAVE OR BE ABLE TO GET INDIRECTLY ON QUESTION OF ELECTING A SUCCESSOR TO SUNDE. POSTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ACTIVELY SOLICIT INFORMATION ON PLANS OF SUNDE OR ON ANY OTHER  
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MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORKERS GROUP OF THE GOVERNING BODY AS NOTED ABOVE, WORKERS ARE SENSITIVE TO ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THEIR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, AND COULD INTERPRET DIRECT INQUIRY FROM EMBOFF AS AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THEM. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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